

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

1-23 (canceled)

24. (new) A saddle arrangement comprising:

a saddle;

a stirrup;

a stirrup bar attached to the saddle at an attachment and having a shank which extends back from the attachment to define a gap between the shank and the saddle;

a buckle;

a stirrup leather having a first end and a second end, the stirrup leather being attached at said first end to said buckle, and said stirrup being threaded onto said stirrup leather between said first end and said second end, and said second end passing through said gap and over said stirrup bar to be secured to said first end by said buckle, to support said stirrup from said stirrup bar;

said buckle comprising:

a frame attached to said first end of said stirrup leather, said frame comprising side arms extending generally parallel to said stirrup leather; and

a cross-bar connecting the side arms; and

said buckle further comprising:

a pivot bar; and

a tongue pivotally attached to said pivot bar for penetrating said second end of said stirrup leather and to bear on said cross-bar to retain said second end;

wherein said side arms are curved to define a recess;

said cross-bar is located, in use, above said stirrup bar and said pivot bar is located, in use, below said stirrup bar;

said stirrup bar being received, at least in part, within said recess, and said tongue extending from said pivot bar, below said stirrup bar, to said cross-bar, above said stirrup bar.

25. (new) A saddle arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the frame defines a concavity when viewed transverse to the length of the strap and in the plain of the strap.

26. (new) A saddle arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the frame is generally rectangular in form.

27. (new) A saddle arrangement according to claim 24, wherein the tongue has an eye through which the pivot bar extends to form the pivotal attachment.

28. (new) A stirrup buckle according to claim 27, wherein the pivot bar is formed to define a pivot axis which is offset in the direction of the recess, relative to the frame.

29. (new) A saddle arrangement according to claim 28, wherein the tongue has an eye through which the pivot bar extends to form the pivoted attachment, and wherein the offset of the pivot bar locates the eye with no part of the eye projecting beyond the frame, in the direction away from the recess.